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Thank you for your letter of 31 January concerning deposit return and FSB's views on the matter.

It has become clear through this work that there are a number of important issues that need to be considered as we move towards a deposit return scheme for Scotland. This is why I have asked that my officials establish an implementation advisory group to draw on the expertise of retailers and producers in establishing a system that will work for everyone. I understand that your colleagues in FSB will be engaging with this group and I look forward to seeing the outputs of their work.

I am clear that an optimum scheme design is one which strikes the right balance between efficiency from the perspective of businesses such as those you represent and convenience from the perspective of consumers. I will also be watching with interest developments in the other countries in the UK and would be happy to explore how our respective schemes might usefully align in the future should their ambitions match our own.

*Yours*

**Roseanna Cunningham**

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